

ERNEST ERBER, AIP

Mr. Erber is on the staff of the Regional Plan Association as Area Director, serving the New Jersey Committee of Regional Plan Association from offices in Newark, New Jersey.

Mr. Erber is an urban and regional planner and a member of the American Institute of Planners, the professional organization in the planning field. He serves as President of the Institute's New Jersey Chapter and served as 1968 National Conference Program Chairman. Mr. Erber represented the planning profession in the organization of the first national conference of the design professions which met at the University of Maryland in 1967.

He acts as a consultant to New Jersey's Department of Community Affairs and serves on its Interprofessional Advisory Committee.

Mr. Erber served as Executive Director of the Passaic Valley Citizens Planning Association from 1949 to 1960, directing a professional staff that served some ten municipalities in Passaic, Bergen and Essex Counties in the preparation of master plans, urban renewal projects, and the drafting of legislation pertinent to planning operations.

He has been prominent in efforts to reclaim the Hackensack Meadowlands and was largely instrumental in bringing about a revival of interest in this project beginning in 1954. His efforts resulted in the creation of the Meadowlands Regional Planning Board, the first official regional planning board in the State.

Mr. Erber serves as an Associate Director and Technical Advisor to the New Jersey Federation of Planning Officials.

Mr. Erber's background study and position paper on New Jersey's total capital needs led to the appointment of the Governor's Capital Needs Commission and the recent passage of the \$990 million bond issue. His position paper on New Jersey's need for long-range planning of water supply and pollution control led to the appointment of the Special Legislative Commission currently studying this matter.

Mr. Erber served on the faculty of Fairleigh Dickinson University as lecturer in urban sociology and serves as consultant to the Urban Studies Center at Rutgers, The State University. He has written numerous papers and articles on planning theory and practice, and is a contributing author to the textbook, "The Local Planning Process in New Jersey".

Mr. Erber is a member of Newark's Committee of Concern, the organization that was born out of the riots to mend the torn fabric of community life. Mr. Erber is founder and Co-Chairman of the Urban Problems Luncheon Group, composed of professional staff personnel from private corporations

and public agencies. He serves on the Board of the National Committee Against Discrimination in Housing.

Mr. Erber organized the Minority Response Rally last spring which brought several thousand predominantly white suburbanites to Trenton under the co-chairmanship of two past Governors, Alfred E. Driscoll and Robert B. Meyner, to demonstrate to the Legislature that New Jersey's affluent majority supports use of state funds to improve urban housing and education.

Mr. Erber is a founder and board member of the Appalachian Highlands Association, a unique coalition of urbanists and conservationists devoted to saving the open character of the Appalachian Highlands, consisting of the first range of the Appalachian Mountains paralleling the New York-New Jersey Metropolitan Region, and dedicated to the proposition that no one needs open space more desperately than the city dwellers, especially the poor.

He is also a member of the New Jersey Economic Roundtable and the American Institute of Urban and Regional Affairs, professional organizations in the social science research field. He is a frequent Sunday morning speaker on the platform of the Society for Ethical Culture.